

Client's ref.: /2004-3-15
File: 0806-8255us/final /Kire/Kevin

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for fabricating a titanium nitride (TiN)
2 sensing membrane on an extended gate field effect transistor
3 (EGFET), comprising the steps of:

4 depositing a layer of aluminum on a gate terminal of
5 the EGFET using thermal evaporation, wherein the
6 layer of aluminum extends from the gate terminal
7 to a sensitive window of the EGFET; and

8 forming the TiN sensing membrane on an exposed part of
9 the layer of aluminum in the sensitive window as
10 an ion sensitive sensor (pH sensor) using a radio
11 frequency (RF) sputtering process during which
12 TiN is used as a sputtering target and a mixture
13 of argon and nitrogen in the ratio of 9:1 is used
14 as a reactant.

1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a
2 substrate temperature of 150°C, a deposition pressure of 5
3 milli-torrs, a sputtering duration time of 1 hour, and an RF
4 power of 90 watts are the preferred operating conditions for
5 forming the TiN sensing membrane.

1 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the TiN
2 sensing membrane has a thickness of about 1800 to 2900Å.

1 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a gate
2 terminal of the pH sensor is referred to as a reference
3 electrode of the pH sensor.

1 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 EGFET includes a temperature sensor and a photosensor.

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1 6. The method as claimed in claim 5 further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 forming an N-type well over a P-type substrate and then
4 a P-type diffusion region within the N-type well
5 using an ion implantation process to form a
6 temperature diode consisting of the P-type
7 diffusion region with respect to the N-type well,
8 such that the temperature diode acts as a
9 temperature sensor to sense a temperature under a
10 forward bias; and

11 forming an N-type diffusion region within the P-type
12 substrate using an ion implantation process to
13 form a photodiode consisting of the N-type
14 diffusion region with respect to the P-type
15 substrate, such that the photodiode acts as a
16 photosensor to sense a photointensity under a
17 reversed bias.

1 7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the
2 temperature sensor senses the temperature by determining a
3 decreased turn-on voltage to be a higher temperature under
4 forward bias.

1 8. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the
2 photosensor senses the photo intensity using a feature that
3 a current caused by changing charge varies with the degree
4 of the photointensity under the reversed bias.